

Verbatim extracts from webcast – Parker, 2022



From 1 hr, 17 mins, 11 secs – 1 hr 19 mins 06 secs

“On page 49, there’s a diagram with Local Plan Site Selection with some blue circles. Just to really draw attention to that because the Green Belt Review, as I say, is going to be a really, really important piece of evidence-based work when it comes out. But it’s just that top circle there. It also has ‘Sustainability Appraisal’, ‘Infrastructure Delivery’, ‘Sustainable Patterns of Development’, Other Economic, Social and Environmental Advantages and Disadvantages’ and ‘Duty to Cooperate’ including, y’know, potential cross-boundary advantages and disadvantages.

And then what this group – to Members who are less familiar, not to have a full understanding – a Green Belt Review is really important. This Council is going to have to be considering potentially really quite a large scale of development in the Green Belt, and needs to have a good understanding of what might be the consequences of that in terms of damage to the Green Belt.

But it’s really important that that is balanced against other important factors. And the realistic prospect is that some of the places that the Green Belt Review says are, y’know, the least worst places to put development in the Green Belt will probably be supported options in the new draft Local Plan.

But there will be some places where the Green Belt Review, of itself, says these will be amongst the least worst places to put development in the Green Belt but there will be other reasons to rule them out.

And, equally, vice versa, there will be some places where the Green Belt Review says, y'know, this is really a quite damaging – er – consequence to Green Belt purposes that might happen if development happened here but, actually, Members in due course might say 'we acknowledge that and accept that and understand that, however, there's other factors that come into play that will outweigh that greater level of damage to the Green Belt'.

And, in particular, because there's been discussions about these sorts of issues in the past at the Planning Policy Committee, I just wanted to highlight those aspects, Vice Chair."

And from 1 hr, 25 mins, 29 secs ...

"The nature of the way Green Belt work is done and the nature of the way that Inspectors are looking at exceptional circumstances is that they don't look at Green Belt impacts alone. So, the page that I drew your attention to with those "blue blobs" on, that is trying to encapsulate the fact that the Green Belt Review will basically give comprehensive Green Belt evidence but it won't then be pulling together the other strands to decide whether or not exceptional circumstances exist (a) for any individual parcel of land, because that's a test and (b) for the Plan as a whole.

So, that will be our job as Officers: to take forward the Green Belt work and, ultimately, make recommendations to yourselves based on a comprehensive suite of evidence. It won't just be exceptional circumstances just based on Green Belt evidence. It has to be based on that comprehensive suite and that's certainly what we'll do in the future."